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FROM: TUNIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 436, FEBRUARY 23

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DEPARTMENT PASS USINFO CALDWELL

JOINT STATE-USIA

BOURGUIBA IN WEEKLY ADDRESS LAST NIGHT, FOLLOWING DEPARTURE KING SAUD, COMMENTED RE SAUD'S ROLE IN UNITY ARAB WORLD, ASKED SUPPORT EISENHOWER EFFORTS RESOLVE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, EMPHASIZING FAITH IN U.N. ALSO TOUCH ON SUCH LOCAL MATTERS AS EARTHQUAKE, NATIONAL LOAN ETC.

REFERRING PRESTIGE SAUD IN ARAB AND MOSLEM WORLD, BY VIRTUE GEOGRAPHY AND MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP, PRIMIN STATED EISENHOWER AWARENESS SAUD INFLUENCE PROMPTED INVITATION TO U.S. FOLLOWING CRISIS "WHICH RECENTLY SHOOK MID EAST AND ALMOST PRECIPITATED WORLD INTO CATASTROPHE". ATTACHED "CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE" SAUD VISIT TUNISIA. WARM WELCOME OF PEOPLE "TESTIMONY BY ITS SPONTANEITY THE BROTHERLY FEELING AND HIGH ESTEEM TOWARD SAUDI PEOPLE".

BOURGUIBA SAID UNABLE REVEAL CONTENT HIS IMPORTANT TALKS WITH KING BUT IN SUMMARY, "OUR POINTS OF VIEW VERY CLOSE AND HAVE SAME ORIENTATION ON ESSENTIALS. WE HAVE A COMMON SCALE OF VALUES." STATED SAUD ALSO FOR "PROGRESS WITHOUT HASTE OR GAMBLE, GRADUALISM, MODERATION IN ACT AND ACCENT, PEACEFUL, REASONED SOLUTION... KING SAUD ALWAYS PREPARED DEFEND LIBERTY AND SOVEREIGNTY ARAB COUNTRIES BUT WITH RESPECT FOR PREROGATIVES EACH AND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE AFFAIRS OTHERS." SAID SAUD "BASES HIS POLICIES ON GREAT PRINCIPLES ISLAM WHICH ARE ABOVE ALL LOYALTY AND FAITH TO WORD AND PROMISES... NEVER TUNISIAN INTENTION PRACTICE SEPARATISM

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REGARD ARAB WORLD" BUT INSIST ON FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND ACTION IN EACH PARTICULAR SITUATION.

"SAUD LIKE US PREFERS OPEN DISCUSSION TO RESOLVE DISPUTES. SAUD SAID FIRE CANNOT PUT OUT FIRE. THIS SHOWS TUNISIANS NOT ALONE IN BELIEVING IN PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THEY BASE THEIR ACTION... WE HOPE SAUD'S WISE INFLUENCE WILL DEFEAT DOUBTS DISSIPATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS ELIMINATE TENSION AND PERMIT IN NEAR FUTURE MORE OPEN BROTHERLY CONTACTS AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES WHO THUS DISCOVER THEIR UNITY AND MEANS FULFILLING THEIR MISSION IN WORLD."

BOURGUIBA SAID HE SHARES OPTIMISM SAUD RE FUTURE ARAB PEOPLES. "HOPE PEACE SOON BE REESTABLISHED IN NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST SO GOVERNMENTS THAT REGION CAN CONCENTRATE EFFORTS ON FRUITFUL TASKS FOR BETTER FUTURE."

BOURGUIBA PLUGGED NATIONAL LOAN AND ASSERTED "DAY WILL COME I HOPE WHEN WE SHALL COUNT ONLY ON OUR OWN RESOURCES."

TURNING GENERAL MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM BOURGUIBA SAID NEXT WEEK DECISIVE "ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, REFUSAL TO COMPLY REPEATED INJUNCTIONS U.N. HAVE CREATED SERIOUS SITUATION, SUBJECTING THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO SEVERE TEST. PRES EISENHOWER ENDEAVORING LEAD ISRAEL BACK TO RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW BUT HIS EFFORTS HAVE ENCOUNTERED RESISTANCE IN CONGRESS AND U.K. WE HOPE THIS OPPOSITION WHICH ENCOURAGES ISRAELI POSITION WILL NOT SERIOUSLY COUNTERACT PRES EISENHOWER'S ACTION IN BEHALF U.N. AND PRESERVATION ITS PRESTIGE IN WORLD."

PRIMIN EXPRESSED HIS FAITH IN "FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE WHICH HAS ALWAYS GUIDED OUR ACTION, NAMELY, TO STRENGTHEN BY ALL MEANS AUTHORITY OF U.N. ONLY THUS CAN RULE LAW OF JUNGLE BE RESTRAINED, AND ERA JUSTICE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BE BROUGHT NEARER. PROGRESS CONSTANT THIS DIRECTION. WORLD PHYSIOGNOMY VISIBLY CHANGED LAST TEN YEARS." SAID ALL ASIA GOOD PART NORTH AFRICA FREED. STILL POCKETS OF INJUSTICE AND ENCLAVES OF SUFFERING "SUCH AS ALGERIA." EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WITH EACH PASSING YEAR AREAS UNDER COLONIAL TYRANNY BE REDUCED AS BORDERS OF FREE WORLD EXTEND.

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